

REMARKS

Claims 17-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 7-13 are cancelled and claims 17-29 are added. Support for new claims 17-29 can be found, for example, in original claims 5 and 7-13. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 5, 7, 8 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. As discussed below, the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 7, 8 and 11 is included in new claims 17-29.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,416,866 to Atake et al. Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 are cancelled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

The Office Action indicates that claim 5 would have been allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of claim 12. New claim 17 includes the combined subject matter of cancelled claims 5 and 12. Accordingly, claim 17 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 5 would have been allowable if combined with claim 12. Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17 and, thus, are also allowable.

The Office Action indicates that claim 7 would have been allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of claim 12. New claim 21 includes the combined subject matter of cancelled claims 7 and 12. Accordingly, claim 21 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 7 would have been allowable if combined with claim 12. Claims 22-25 depend from claim 19 and, thus, are also allowable.

The Office Action indicates that claim 11 would have been allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of claim 12. New claim 26 includes the combined subject matter of cancelled claims 11 and 12. Accordingly, claim 26 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 11 would have been allowable if combined with claim 12. Claims 27-29 depend from claim 26 and, thus, are also allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 17-29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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